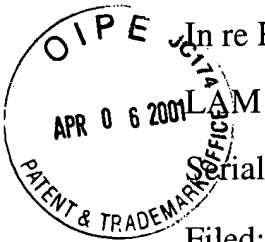


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Attention is directed to the attached PCT International Search Report for this application and each reference cited therein. A PTO-1449 is also attached.

Official consideration and citation of each such reference is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

Larry S. Nixon  
Reg. No. 25,640

LSN:vc  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100